

PATENT APPLICATION
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Docket No: Q95045

Akihiro GOTO, et al.

Appln. No.: National Stage of PCT/JP2004/017698

Confirmation No.: Not yet assigned

Group Art Unit: Not yet assigned

Filed: August 8, 2006

Examiner: Not yet assigned

For: RESISTANCE WELDING ELECTRODE, METHOD OF MANUFACTURING THE
SAME, RESISTANCE WELDING APPARATUS, AND RESISTANCE WELDING
LINE

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98

MAIL STOP AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants hereby notify the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) form and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

One copy of each of the listed documents is submitted herewith, except for the following: U.S. patents and/or U.S. patent publications; and co-pending non-provisional U.S. applications filed after June 30, 2003.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed: (1) No later than three months from the application's filing date; (2) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits (whichever is later); or (3) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action after filing a request for continued examination (RCE) under §1.114, and therefore, no Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is required.

In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) for foreign language documents, Applicants enclose herewith a copy of a Communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application citing such documents (International Search Report dated January 25, 2005), together with an English-language version (if not

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
U.S. Appln. No.: National Stage of PCT/JP2004/017698
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already included) of at least that portion of the Communication indicating the degree of relevance found by the foreign patent office.

In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) for foreign language documents, Applicants submit the following explanations: Japanese Patent Application/Publication Nos. 10-128554; 10-34351; 8-81723 are cited and discussed on page 1 in the specification of the present application. English language abstracts are enclosed. Applicants also submit herewith, Japanese Application / Publication No. 3271844 and the English language abstract.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicants do not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: August 8, 2006

Substitute for Form 1449 A & B/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Complete if Known

Sheet 1 of 1	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Application Number</td> <td style="width: 50%;">National Stage of PCT/JP2004/017698</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Confirmation Number</td> <td>Not yet assigned</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Filing Date</td> <td>August 7, 2006</td> </tr> <tr> <td>First Named Inventor</td> <td>Akihiro GOTO</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Art Unit</td> <td>Not yet assigned</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Examiner Name</td> <td>Not yet assigned</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Attorney Docket Number</td> <td>Q95045</td> </tr> </table>	Application Number	National Stage of PCT/JP2004/017698	Confirmation Number	Not yet assigned	Filing Date	August 7, 2006	First Named Inventor	Akihiro GOTO	Art Unit	Not yet assigned	Examiner Name	Not yet assigned	Attorney Docket Number	Q95045
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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)		
		US 6,602,561	B1	08-05-2003	Akihiro GOTO et al.
		US 6,935,917	B1	08-30-2005	Akihiro GOTO et al.
		US 6,808,604	B1	10-26-2004	Toshio MORO et al.
		US			
		US			
		US			
		US			
		US			
		US			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Translation ⁶
		Country Code ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵ (if known)			
		JP	1-258876	A	10-16-1989	Kobe Steel, Ltd.	Abstract
		JP	60-231597	A	11-18-1985	Sumitomo Electric Industries, Ltd.	Abstract
		JP	62-89583	A	04-24-1987	Toshiba Tungaloy Co., Ltd.	Abstract
		WO	2001/005545	A1	01-25-2001	Akihiro GOTO et al.	Abstract
		JP	10-128554	A	05-19-1998	Toyota Auto Body Co., Ltd.	Abstract
		JP	10-34351	A	02-10-1998	Nissan Motor Co., Ltd.	Abstract
		JP	8-81723	A	03-26-1996	Mitani Shindo KK and Yamaha Metanikusu KK	Abstract
		JP	3271844	B2	01-25-2005	Res. Dev. Corp. of Japan	Abstract

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city, and/or country where published.	Translation ⁶
		AKIHIRO GOTO, "Surface Treatment by Electrical Discharge Coating", Nikkei Mechanical No. 552, pp. 106-112, (September 2000)	
		MANABU YOSHIDA et al., "Characteristics of Electrical Discharge Coating", Transactions on National Conference of JSEME, 2000, 4 pages, (2000)	
		A. GOTO et al., "Formation of Hard Layer on Metallic Material By EDM", International Symposium for Electromachining (ISEM 12), pp. 15-22, (1998)	

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov, MPEP 901.04 or follow the hyperlink from the title of the document to the intranet. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST. 3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to indicate here if English language Translation is attached.